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Christian Unity
NEWSLETTER

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Association Becomes Council On Christian Unity

The structure and program of the Association for the Promotion of Christian Unity was re-shaped to fit present opportunities at the Association's meeting in Miami, Florida, October 25-26, 1954. The Board of Commissioners voted to change the name of the Association to "The Council On Christian Unity" and to establish the organization on an individual membership basis while at the same time providing for agencies involved in ecumenical concerns to be represented in the Council's executive committee. The Board also created three departments to carry forward the Council's program.

The Council on Christian Unity, originally known as the Council on Christian Union, was established in 1910 after Peter Ainslie, president of the International Convention, urged delegates at the Topeka convention to renew their commitment to their original plea for Christian unity. In 1914 the Council was incorporated as the "Association for the Promotion of Christian Unity." The recent change to "The Council on Christian Unity" was made to indicate that the Council is more than an association of individuals. It is that, plus the agencies which elect to carry forward their ecumenical concerns concertedly. The revised constitution, which was adopted on a three-year trial basis, provides that individual membership should be the foundation for the Council's structure. Members in their annual meetings will elect directors who will be responsible for the work of the Council. The executive committee, elected by the Board of Directors, will include the chief executives of four agencies particularly involved in ecumenical affairs, namely, the Board of Higher Education, the Committee on Foreign Relief Appeals, the International Convention, and the United Christian Missionary Society.

The three departments created at Miami to carry on the program of the Council are the Central Department of Christian Unity, the Department of Ecumenical Study and the Department of Ecumenical Service. Each department will work through such committees as are needed. The directors of the departments are, respectively, George Walker Buckner, Jr., Ronald E. Osborn, and Robert Tobias.

The purpose of the Council remains the same: *"To watch for every indication of Christian unity, to initiate steps for Christian union and to hasten the time of its fulfillment through intercessory prayer, friendly conferences, study of pertinent issues, publication and distribution of literature, prophetic witness to the will of Christ for His Church, and the practice of love, fellowship, and mutual service among Christians. The Council shall give particular attention to the development and nurture of an ecumenical spirit among Disciples of Christ."*

However a new emphasis is placed on services to other communions around the world and studies with them, and upon the cultivation of the spirit of unity among Disciples. It is the hope of the Council that it can better serve and represent the whole Brotherhood in its ecumenical ministry.

A limited number of copies of the constitution are available to members of the Council on request.

By way of introduction, this issue of *Christian Unity Newsletter* is being sent to a large number of friends throughout the Brotherhood. Financial limitations will restrict distribution hereafter to dues-paying members. You are invited to become a member *(application, page 8)* and to enlist others as members and participants in the work of the Council. The annual meeting is normally held at the time of the International Convention Assembly.

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1955-60

Christian Unity Newsletter

Christian Unity Newsletter: Issued quarterly to members and friends of the Council by the Council On Christian Unity(an association of Disciples of Christ for the Promotion of Christian unity, for ecumenical fellowship and service), 222 S.Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

"Greenwich Plan"Printed For Study

To facilitate study and response, the Greenwich Conference on Church Union has printed and sent to denominational representatives copies of the proposed *Plan of Union for a United Church*. The printed document is a revised draft dated May 22, 1953. It is issued under the heading "confidential, for study and comment only." The proposal in its present form is issued to the churches for their diligent study and response in order that the committee can procede with redrafting the present plan.

The Disciples' Faith and Order commission gave careful attention to the original draft and made certain comments. The present draft will be sent to a score of small study groups scattered over the United States, including pastors, professors, laymen, lay women and youth. The Council on Christian Unity, which has taken responsibility for study of the Plan among Disciples, hopes to compile the comments from the different working groups sometime early in the summer and possibly hold a short conference of secretaries of the different groups.

Members of the Council are invited to initiate studies within their own congregations or in their areas. A limited number of copies of the Plan are available on request.

Communions participating in the Greenwich Conference on Church Union are the Congregational Christian, Disciples of Christ, Evangelical and Reformed, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Colored Methodist Episcopal, Methodist, National Council of Community Churches, and Presbyterian USA.

Congregational-Christian And Disciple Relations

During the Boston Assembly of the National Council of Churches the Council on Christian Unity invited a small number of Congregational-Christian leaders to meet with representatives of the Council. Disciples present were George Walker Buckner, Jr., Gaines M. Cook, Riley B. Montgomery, Virgil A. Sly, and Robert Tobias. The dinner provided an occasion for informal conversations concerning relationships and areas of cooperation between the two communions.

Recent relations between the two communions go back to the International Convention of Buffalo in 194[illegible] when the Council was authorized by the Convention to confer with Congregational-Christian Churches concerning the possibilities of closer cooperation or merger. Since that time the Congregational-Christian churches have been involved in merger negotiations with the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Disciples rejoice with present prospects of that merger. In the meantime, Congregational-Christian and Reformed leaders maintain cordial and cooperative relationships of various types with other communions. At present cooperative endeavors between Disciples and Congregational Christians include the establishment of a few union churches, some student work administered jointly, exchange of delegations, preachers and fraternal representatives, and some cooperative work in the field of higher education, missions, and theological study. Further conversations of an informal nature are expected to continue.

A document of interest to free churches has recently been prepared by a Congregational-Christian committee entitled *A Study by the Committee on Free Church Polity and Unity*. It is a provocative statement which should prove of considerable ecclesiological and theological significance in ecumenical conversation.

tist-Disciple Relations

t the request of the Portland ention the Council on Christian y has continued informal conver- ons with American Baptists. An rmal luncheon meeting was held at iston during the World Council mbly and a second meeting at Bos- during the Assembly of the Nation- Council of Churches. Conversa- s have centered around areas of al concern, principally our com- witness on university campuses. e areas of cooperative endeavor to increase, prospects for mer- on a national scale appear un- ged since the close of the Chicago ention.

th and Order U.S. dy Conference

A recommendation concerning the ling of a Faith and Order Confer- in America in 1957 will come be- the Executive Committee of the Conference for the World Council, uary 12, 1955, in New York. The mmendation comes from the Ameri- members of the Faith and Order nission, and calls for a confer- e under World Council auspices, the general theme *The Nature of Unity We Seek*. Robert Tobias l attend the meeting in New York lternate for George Walker Buck- Jr.

ciples On WCC Committees

tral Committee, George Walker Buckner, Jr.

sion of Studies:

visional Committee, M. Searle Bates *th and Order Commission*, Perry E. Gresham

ssionary Studies Dept., M. Searle Bates

ision of Action:

visional Committee: Robert Tobias *ty Dept.*, J. Irwin Miller

menical Institute, George Walker Buckner, Jr.

peration of Men and Women J. Lozada Mrs. J. D. Wyker

Conference for W.C.C.

ecutive Committee, George Walker Buckner, Jr.

Response To Evanston

The Disciples' "Response to Evanston," patterned somewhat after our "Responses" to Amsterdam and Lund, is in the final editing stage. Printing and distribution are scheduled for March-April.

As with the earlier "Responses," a copy will go to each Disciple pastor and executive. Additional copies for study groups, seminaries and conferences will be available on a cost basis.

In contrast to the earlier "Responses" which were necessarily focused on theological issues the Evanston "Response" will comment on eleven aspects of the Assembly and World Council life. These eleven sections, with drafting convenors, are:

1. Message and Main Theme- W. Barnett Blakemore
2. Faith and Order-W. E. Garrison
3. Evangelism and Missions-A. D. Fiers
4. Responsible Society and International Affairs-Barton Hunter
5. Inter-Group Relations-L. Deer
6. Vocation (Laity) Wm. McKinney
7. Ecumenical Action&-Howard E. Short
8. Ecumenical Study -Ronald E. Osborn
9. Inter-Church Air-C. O. Hawley
10. Information-Lin D. Cartwright
11. Finance-George Walker Buckner, Jr.

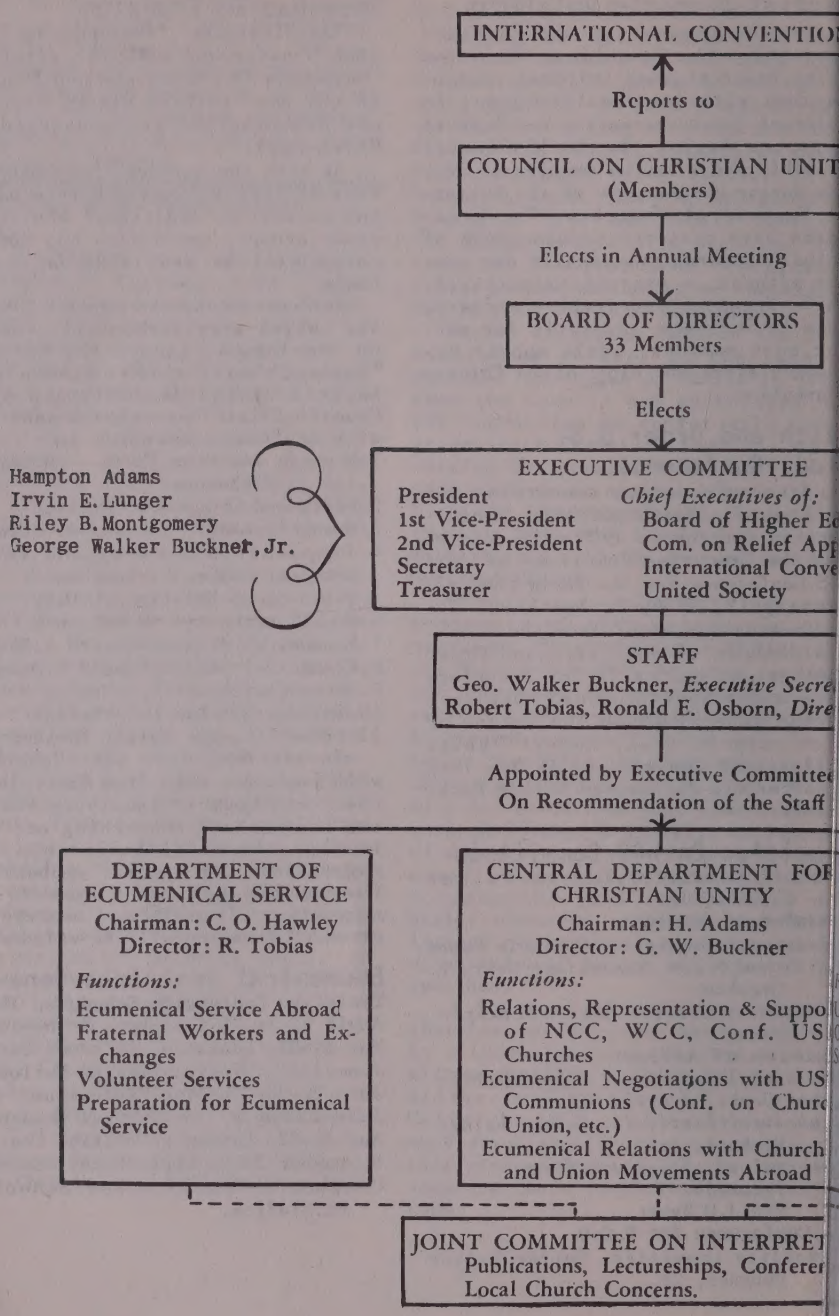
In its final form the "Response" will include a word from Disciples to the World Council family, a word to the brotherhood concerning our part in the ecumenical fellowship, and suggestions for special emphasis in the coming period. Comments and suggestions from Council members who attended Evanston will be welcome.

Ecumenical Institute-Geneva

Tentative Conference Schedule, 1955

April 12-16, Philosophers & Theologians
May 18-31, Education In Armed Forces
June 1-15, Missionaries on Furlough
June 22-28, Nursing Profession
July 18-Aug. 8, Theological Students
Aug. 10-22, Laymen's Vocation Course
September 2-12, Bible Study Methods
October 1-Feb. 15, Grad. School of Ec. Studies.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Terms expire in 1955,	*Terms expire in 1956*	*Terms expire in 1957*
Gaines M. Cook	Hampton Adams	John Broadman
Myron C. Cole	Paul Becker	A. Dale Fiers
F. E. Davidson	T. Hassel Bowen	Loren E. Lair
Floyd Faust	George Walker Buckner, Jr.	William Jackson Jarman
Ira Langston	William K. Fox	Riley B. Montgomery
Corl Leach	Warren Grafton	Doyle Mullen
Oliver McCully	Perry Gresham	G. Edwin Osborn
E. S. Moreland	C. O. Hawley	John Paul Pack
Mrs. Russell Putnam	Joseph B. Hunter	Lee C. Pierce
M. E. Sadler	Irvin E. Lunger	Donald M. Salmon
Harlie L. Smith	Miss Elsie Sweeney	James H. Welsh

DEPARTMENT OF
ECUMENICAL STUDY

Chairman: I. E. Lunger
Director: R. E. Osborn

Functions:

Unity—Faith and Order
Communion and Ministry
Study of Union and Merger
Proposals

Department of Ecumenical Service Plans For Future

The Department of Ecumenical Service, at the first meeting since its establishment in October, outlined a broad framework for an ecumenical service program for the coming two years. The three major areas of activity will be inter-church aid abroad (in association with the Committee on Relief Appeals), exchanges of pastors, professors and technical experts with churches abroad, and preparation of younger Disciples for ecumenical ministries. Immediate projects under consideration include a survey of disaster areas abroad by a joint team of the Department and the Committee on Relief Appeals, exchanges of professors with seminaries in Germany and Greece, commissioning of fraternal workers for Berlin and Korea, and development of a comprehensive training program for ecumenical ministries.

Special Representative, Japan

Hallam Shorrock, missionary of the United Society in Japan, has been nominated by the Council's Dept. of Ecumenical Services as Special Representative for the Council in Japan. Mr. Shorrock is presently engaged in work for the United Society, and, by arrangement with the Japanese Church, and the World Council of Churches, in relief and rehabilitation work for the World Council in Japan.

As Special Representative in Japan Mr. Shorrock will inform the Council on Christian Unity of significant developments in Christian unity in Japan and may from time to time make suggestions concerning our broader participation in the life and needs of Christians there.

The Newsletter

At the request of several member of the Council we are under-taking issue this occasional news-letter members and friends of the Council The purpose of the Newsletter is provide a channel for reporting members concerning the activities the Departments and of fellow-member and for sharing information readily suited to general publicati

It is not our intent to duplica work already carried forward ve effectively by Disciples publicatio or the National Council's publicatio or the World Council's Ecumenic Press Service. Members are therefo invited to send information concer ing projects, programs or ideas whi they care to share with one anothe They are urged further to indica whether such information is of c fidential nature. If not, we shall in touch with Lin Cartwright a others concerning broader public tion.

Bowen To Germany

T. Hassell Bowen, professor College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky and member of the Board of Direct of the Council will be Protesta guest speaker at the U.S. Chaplain School in Germany in June, 195 While in Europe Prof. Bowen will re contacts with church leaders several countries.

New Zealand

Eight Disciples have been appoi ed to represent the Churches of Chr in forthcoming union discussions New Zealand. The first combined c versations begin in February.

Four commissions are working different parts of the country preparation for a national Faith Order Conference in May, 1955.

Principal Haddon writes that commission in Dunedin is study ordination in relation to Christ unity. The commission meets e week to hear and discuss papers leaders of different communions.

ıenical Study
ıference Report

M or addresses and a summary re- of the Disciples Study Confer- on Ecumenical Issues have just ered in the January issue of *Quarterly*.

The Conference was held from Aug- to 9, 1954, in Chicago and was ored by the Committee on Ecumen- Fellowship and Service. The ples Divinity House and the rsity Christian Church were host e Conference, including 130 ble leaders.

ring their three days of inten- study, the delegates considered major points:

e Nature of the Church and the ion and Message of Disciples in umenical Perspective.

ıe Disciples Mission and the ples' Younger Churches, Missions nion Churches.

king the Ecumenical Movement A ty at Home.

ch major topic was introduced address or panel and commentary wed by free discussion. These sses, along with some "findings" e Conference are included in the ed report.

eakers at the Conference include Visser't Hooft of the World cil of Churches, Hans Hermann of Germany, Virgil A.Sly, M. e Bates, William G.West, Hampton s, John Harms, Myron C.Cole, y Roy Jarvis, L.Doyle Mullen, C.Pierce, Ronald E.Osborn, and Disciples.

pies of the report are available *Shane Quarterly*, School of Reli- Butler University, Indianapolis ıdiana.

Selected Books On Ecumenical Subjects

I. The Nature of the Church

Brunner, Emil, *The Misunderstanding of the Church*, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1953.

Craig, C.T., *The One Church*, Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1951

Dillistone, F.W., *The Structure of Divine Society*, Westminster, Philadelphia, 1951.

Newbigin, L., *The Household of God*. Friendship Press, N.Y., 1954.

Robinson, W.H., *The Biblical Doctrine of the Church*, Bethany Press, St.Louis, 194[illegible].

O.S.Tomkins, *The Church In The Purpose of God*, Parrett and Neves, Chatham, 1950.

The Nature of the Church, (Faith and Order Report), Harpers, New York, 1952.

Doctrine of the Church and the Ecumenical Movement; various contributions, Ecumenical Review issues of winter 1949, winter 1950, April and October 1951, April and July, 1952. W.C.C., New York.

In subsequent issues, selected bibliographies will be given on the following topics, or others suggested by Council members:

Evanston (flyer mailed with this issue)
Church Union;
The Ecumenical Movement;
Disciples and Christian Unity;
Missions and Unity;
Inter-Communion;
The National Council;
Local Ecumenics.

k Discoveries:

exceptional books you have discovered off the beaten h, and recommend to fellow members: (clip and mail) e subject, author, title, publisher, and date please.

Christian Unity Newsletter

The Practice of Christian Unity

Disciples At Work

The work of Christian Unity is the work of every member of the Brotherhood. Here is some work undertaken by various agencies and individuals:

--Publication of pre-Evanston ecumenical discussions; *The Scroll.*

--Facilities for the Disciples Study Conference on Ecumenical Issues; *Disciples Divinity House and University Church, Chicago.*

--Publishing the report of the study Conference; *Shane Quarterly.*

--Lending Professor Ronald E. Osborn to teach in the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, Geneva, Switzerland; *School of Religion Butler University.*

--Maintaining integrity of fellowship and witness with Christians in Japan; *Board of Managers of the United Christian Missionary Society.*

--Commissioning W.E.Garrison to write a book on Disciples and Christian Unity; *Christian Board of Publication (jointly with the Council on Christian Unity).*

--Special financial support for the ecumenical cause; *Miss Elsie I. Sweeney.*

--Persistent ecumenical news coverage and editorial emphasis; *The Christian Evangelist.*

--Sponsoring a refugee family consisting of an Eastern Orthodox father Roman Catholic mother, and one child; *Sombra de Monte Christian Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

--Printing *Christian Unity Newsletter; University Place Christian Church, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.*

Disciples' Opportunity

Week of Compassion, Feb. 20-27, 1955

Greenwich Plan Study Groups

Council members who wish to initiate local study groups to share in the drafting and revising of a Plan Of Union For A United Church may secure copies of tentative proposals from the Council office. Comments of local groups should be returned by May, 1955

Evanston Speakers. A list of Evanston participants was published in *The Christian Evangelist,* Dec. 22, 1954. Contact participants direct concerning engagements.

Support World and National Councils. Disciples support of the National and World Council budgets is based on contributions direct from local congregations. In 1953, 404 churches (of 7,945) contributed directly to the World Council and 750 to the National Council. Other congregations may join them by writing items into their budgets for the Councils (we suggest one-half of one percent as a beginning) and sending contributions direct to:

The World Council of Churches
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

marked "for Disciples' quota," and

The National Council of Churches
297 Fourth Avenue
New York, 10, New York

marked "for Disciples' quota."

Our quota of the World Council budget 1954-1955, is $15,231.50. Of this amount $5940.08 had been received direct from local congregations as of December 13.

Membership Application

Being in sympathy with the purposes of the Council On Christian Unity and desiring to further its work by active participation in its program and witness, I hereby apply for membership in the Council and enclose $2.00 for membership dues for the year 1955.

Signature: _____

Address: _____

_____

Date: _____ Mail to Council On Christian Unity, 222 S. Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana